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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Community Legend Awardees announced by the
Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (NVTRP)
*NVTRP celebrates 30 Years of Service and Peachy Keen Day in Clifton, VA***

Clifton, VA – September 14, 2010 – The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (NVTRP), a nonprofit organization located in Clifton, VA, is celebrating 30 years of service to individuals with disabilities. As part of its celebration, NVTRP is recognizing Community Legends, heroes who have made a significant contribution to therapeutic riding or have had a profound impact on the lives of children and adults who live with disabilities.

The following individuals will be honored:

Mary Jo Beckman: a retired Navy Commander, Master Therapeutic Riding Instructor and co-founder of the Army's Caisson Platoon therapeutic riding program;

Barbara S. Ford: Board Member of the Therapeutic Riding Association of Virginia and founder of EQUI-KIDS Therapeutic Riding Program;

Janet Samuelson: President of the ServiceSource Network, Inc, a network of 5 non-profit organizations serving over 11,000 people with disabilities;

Jacque Trefry : one of the original founders of the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program; and

Colleen Zanin: an occupational therapist with Fairfax County Public Schools, founder of Lift Me Up!, and one of the founding members of the American Hippotherapy Association (AHA).

“The dedication and achievements of our honorees to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities has influenced our program’s history and our future vision for NVTRP,” said NVTRP Executive Director Breeana Bornhorst. “Our program has flourished for 30 years because of amazing individuals coming together for a common goal: making a positive difference in the quality of life for our riders.”

MORE

NVTRP will honor the Community Legend Awardees during its 30th Anniversary Jubilee, on Peachy Keen Day, September 19, 2010. The Clifton Town Council designated this date to honor our beloved pony and Community Ambassador who has been teaching therapeutic riding for fifteen years. Hundreds of riders have benefitted from riding Peaches, with improved balance, coordination, muscular strength, social skills and self confidence.

The Jubilee will be held at Trummer's On Main in Clifton, VA, from 4-6:30pm.

About Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program: Originally chartered in 1980, NVTRP is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to providing equine-assisted activities to children and adults with disabilities, youth-at risk, military service personnel and their families in an inclusive, community setting. Learning to ride and care for a horse not only improves the physical health of the rider but also generates a critically important sense of accomplishment. Riders participating in NVTRP's program represent a range of disabilities, including attention deficit disorder, autism, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, developmental disabilities, vision and hearing impairments, and genetic syndromes. NVTRP is a Premier Center accredited by the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA), and a member center of the Therapeutic Riding Association of Virginia (TRAV). To donate to the program or for more information, visit www.nvtrp.org. or contact Breeana Bornhorst at 703-764-0269.

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